

dairy case in their local store. Visitors from states to our south frequently come to Maine to see our green pastures with grazing cows against the backdrop of a white farmhouse and a red barn not only as tourists, but as prospective homeowners and future Maine residents looking to find a simpler, more traditional way of life. In fact, some of the most valuable land for housing developments is adjacent to working farms.

But the size of our farms and the beauty of the landscape are coupled with innovative production techniques and creative marketing efforts. Many farmers have discovered the value of organic production operations and marketing to the organic food niche market. Most dairy farmers have diversified farm operations to include other agricultural products to supplement the dairy operation, such as selling hay or other silage crops, raising replacement dairy animals or a variety of animals for meat and byproducts. And studies have found that 89 percent of Maine dairy farms are operating at 85 percent of higher rates of efficiency, utilizing new techniques and technology.

However, no amount of diversification can make up for low milk prices. Farmers are just coming back from over 25 straight months of record low prices that resulted in a loss of 68 Maine dairy farms (15 percent of the total). The irony is that Maine has fared better than many other states, including most of those in New England, thanks in part to innovative state and regional solutions to help bolster the price to farmers when the Federal Order Price drops.

Maine has long been a leader in finding new and creative solutions to the challenges in agriculture. In dairy, our legacy is in finding ways to allow regional flexibility in a pricing system that clumps farmers from all 50 States into one big commodity category. In the early 1990s, Maine dairy farmers worked with state leaders to create a Vendor Fee system that supported the milk price paid to farmers when the price fell below the cost of production. This became the model for the Northeast Dairy Compact, which successfully operated in the 6 New England states from 1997 until September 2001.

The Vendor Fee, its successor the Maine Dairy Stabilization Act, and the Northeast Dairy Compact all recognized that not all parts of the country can produce milk for the same amount of money. Farmers in the western U.S. can take advantage of federal water subsidies to turn desert into prime grazing land. Some areas have longer growing seasons than others and some are not suited to growing the types of grain and feeds needed for dairy cattle. These three programs utilized their regional marketplace to support the dairy operations that supplied the consumers in that area. Consumers were willing to pay more to ensure a fresh, quality supply of local milk and dairy products. It was a symbiotic relationship.

The National Dairy Equity Act is an attempt to recognize and build on the simple concept begun in the state of Maine—that regional flexibility is necessary when it comes to milk pricing in order to sustain a consistent supply of fresh milk to all our citizens. Our dairy farms are too valuable to our economy and our way of life to risk losing due to rigid, one-size-fits-all policies that have been mutated to protect the consumer and the processor, but do little for the farmer.

Without the dairy farmer, we would not have fresh milk. A robotic cow operating in a mass production plant is not a solution. We need a vibrant, diversified dairy industry peppered throughout this country. Today, we have one in Maine. Passage of the National Dairy Equity Act could mean that we will continue to enjoy quality Maine milk for generations to come.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

DALE COLE,
Maine Dairy Industry Association.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

NATIONAL PEACE ESSAY CONTEST

• Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I am honored today to present to my colleagues in the Senate an essay by Adam Hofer of Rapid City, SD. Adam is a student at St. Thomas More High School, and he has been awarded first place in the annual National Peace Essay Contest for South Dakota. "Rebuilding Societies After Conflict" examines how postconflict states transition to free elections, develop a national constitution, and incorporate demobilized soldiers into society. By using the case studies of Nicaragua and Mozambique, Adam deftly illustrates the importance of all three factors in a nation's transition to peace following civil war. I commend his essay to my colleagues' attention. I ask consent that Adam Hofer's essay be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows.

REBUILDING SOCIETIES AFTER CONFLICT

(By Adam Hofer)

The Greek philosopher Aristotle noted, "It is more difficult to organize peace than to win a war; but the fruits of victory will be lost if the peace is not organized." This idea of organization as central to lasting peace is as applicable today as it was over 2000 years ago. Yet, the question remains as to the means by which peace efforts should be organized. In the twentieth century, post-war countries like Nicaragua and Mozambique strove to organize peaceful, reconstructed nations. An analysis of the post-conflict reconstruction methods used in these countries shows that free elections, a national constitution, and the reintegration of demobilized soldiers are necessary conditions that must be incorporated for a post-conflict reconstruction program to achieve the stability and reconciliation necessary for lasting peace.

In Nicaragua, several developments led to the end of almost a decade of civil war between the Sandinista government of Nicaragua and members of the Nicaraguan Resistance known as the Contras. The initial spark to end the violence was a negotiated stalemate between the two factions that occurred because foreign military support to both sides discontinued. The military stalemate gave Nicaragua the opportunity to sign a regional plan for peace in Central America, known as the Arias Plan, in 1987. Apart from bringing a negotiated cease-fire and national reconciliation, the Arias plan also paved the way for the 1989 free national elections in Nicaragua. The national elections resulted in the Sandinista government's losing to Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, the candidate of the opposition party. Led by a leader committed to a democratic government and national reconciliation, Nicaragua had finally stepped out of the Cold War spotlight and was ready to begin its reconstruction process.

The reconstruction process in Nicaragua that began following the recent civil war is

still evident in the country today. Years of conflict in Nicaragua had given the country a need for many elements of reconstruction, one being the country's security. Nicaragua acknowledged that the social reintegration of demobilized soldiers was essential to establishing security and beginning reconstruction. With the help of international organizations such as Network for Peace, many former soldiers were successfully reintegrated and became active models of reconciliation and peace for the Nicaraguan society.

Efforts in rebuilding the governance and economy of Nicaragua continue to be key elements in sustaining peace as well. Organizing Nicaragua's government after peace involved the creation of a constitutional democracy. This type of democracy incorporated representation from both sides of the conflict, ensuring that the decisions of the government did not re-ignite the issues from the past conflict. The new government also created the freedom for Nicaragua's economy to begin development. An economic plan "for regional cooperation in trade, financing, investment, and production," as well as the benefit of ongoing foreign assistance generated economic development in Nicaragua. This reorganization of the government and economy has helped the country become more stable and has inclined its citizens towards reconciliation.

It is not by chance that the conflicts of Nicaragua's civil war have not re-ignited; their reconciliation is a direct result of the organized means of post-conflict reconstruction. Nicaragua obtained a national sense of security by organizing the demobilization and reintegration of many soldiers from both the Contra and Sandinista armies. The government, rooted in a national constitution, achieved stability and gave the country a solid foundation for recovery.

Mozambique's successful transition from a warring country to a peaceful nation is comparable to that of Nicaragua. Like Nicaragua, Mozambique experienced an internal conflict, a civil war that was between the Frelimo Government and the Renamo, or National Resistance Movement in Mozambique. Conflict ended in Mozambique in 1992, and the country's efforts of reconstruction continue today.

The opportunity for peace in Mozambique came in 1983 when the president of the ruling Frelimo government accepted the failure of socialism and recognized the need for reform. The government was unable to control a country that had already suffered about one million deaths from civil war. This acceptance eventually led to the enactment of a national constitution in 1992. The constitution "provided for a multi-party political system, market-based economy, and free elections." These elements provided by the national constitution led to peace negotiations between the two factions and the beginnings of governmental and economical reconstruction in Mozambique.

The "social fabric" and "economic infrastructure" of Mozambique had been greatly disrupted by the 17 years of civil strife. A sense of security in the country was an important and immediate need. The reconstruction began with a United Nations' program for transitioning destructive soldiers into productive citizens. These efforts of reintegration and demobilization were so successful that the demilitarized soldiers were soon helping remove the approximately one million landmines still present from the country's civil war. During the first 5 years following peace, "more than 6.5 billion in international aid flowed into Mozambique * * * most of which went to demilitarization and demining, infrastructure and capacity strengthening, and poverty reduction."

These international efforts to rebuild Mozambique's security set the stage for the rest of the country's post-war reconstruction process.

Reconstruction of Mozambique's economy began as the nation became more secure. Since much of Mozambique was drought-stricken and strewn with landmines, the agriculturally based economy relied greatly on international aid at the onset of peace. Fortunately, a more independent economy was soon underway as many landmines were removed, and good rains resulted in Mozambique's first bountiful harvest in years. This economic stabilization was felt throughout the country and encouraged a more suitable environment for reconciliation to occur.

The unique cultural elements of Mozambique also proved helpful in reorganizing and rebuilding the country. Since Mozambique's people had "little history of religious fundamentalism, warlords, or ethnic conflict," the reconstruction efforts faced less resistance. Also, local healers used traditional rituals to emphasize "social precautions for retaining a well functioning society." In these ways, the naturally existing cultural unity of Mozambique helped the citizens to put the past conflicts aside and to focus on rebuilding their country.

The reconstruction efforts that have taken place in Mozambique have been successful in sustaining this country's peace. One significant reason is that most members of the former Renamo guerrilla army have become responsible citizens. This successful reintegration has caused a peaceful attitude to filter throughout the nation and has brought confidence that violence will not re-ignite. The national constitution and developing economy provided Mozambique with stability and promoted national reconciliation, aiding the transition from war to peace.

Evaluating the successful methods used in the reconstruction of Nicaragua and Mozambique reveals the necessary conditions for successful post-conflict reconstruction in any country. Free national elections secure a legitimate governing body and are an essential condition for a stable society. Such elections ensure that citizens are able to choose a leader who reflects their ideals and who can administer with majority support. A national election and an appropriate transfer of power should be organized almost immediately following any conflict.

Another essential condition of post-conflict reconstruction, aimed at achieving a stable society, is the establishment of a national constitution. Representatives from all of the country's territories should cooperate to develop a constitution that addresses the political, economical, and social needs of the country. This diverse representation will guarantee that these elements are unbiased and endow the citizens with their proper rights and responsibilities. Treated justly, the citizens will be more willing to reconcile former conflicts and unite to maintain peace in their country.

The final condition to achieve stability is reconciliation through the reintegration of ex-combatants. The traumas experienced by the soldiers during the conflict must be treated by local or international agencies at the on-set of peace. The ex-combatants, reconciled from the conflict, can become responsible citizens of their society. Upon successful reintegration, the ex-combatants will serve as examples to their communities and cause a contagious effect of reconciliation to permeate the country. This reconciliation, like that in Nicaragua and Mozambique, will prompt former soldiers and citizens from both sides of the conflict to contribute to a reconstruction process that will lead the country toward stability and lasting peace.

Thus, the means of the post-conflict reconstruction used in Nicaragua and Mozambique

can serve as examples for other countries trying to reconcile and stabilize to organize lasting peace. Although some aspects of the reconstruction process will be unique to individual post-conflict countries, it is crucial that a reconstruction program incorporate free elections, a national constitution, and the reintegration of demobilized soldiers for the post-conflict efforts to result in a stable society. These elements, integrated into any country's post-conflict reconstruction program, lead to lasting peace and stability because they provide the citizens with justice through a legitimate governing body and the conditions for social, political, and economical reconciliation.

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MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:48 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4520. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove impediments in such Code and make our manufacturing, service, and high-technology businesses and workers more competitive and productive both at home and abroad.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on Finance:

Report to accompany S.J. Res. 39, A joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 (Rept. No. 108-281).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 322. A resolution designating August 16, 2004, as "National Airborne Day".

S. Res. 357. A resolution designating the week of August 8 through August 14, 2004, as "National Health Center Week".

S. Res. 370. A resolution designating September 7, 2004, as "National Attention Deficit Disorder Awareness Day".

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2547. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to exclude non-native migratory bird species from the application of that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2548. A bill for the relief of Shigeru Yamada; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2549. A bill for the relief of Alfredo Plascencia Lopez and Maria Del Refugio Plascencia; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM of Florida):

S. Res. 383. A resolution commending the National Hockey League Tampa Bay Lightning for winning the 2004 Stanley Cup Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. BIDEN):

S. Res. 384. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the development of self-government in Kosovo; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 178

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 178, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide adequate coverage for immunosuppressive drugs furnished to beneficiaries under the medicare program that have received an organ transplant.

S. 253

At the request of Mrs. DOLE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 253, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns.

S. 720

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 720, a bill to amend title IX of the Public Health Service Act to provide for the improvement of patient safety and to reduce the incidence of events that adversely effect patient safety.

S. 1068

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1068, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and